

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2021 COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM

PRESENT

K J Loydall Chair



COUNCILLORS

N Alam
Miss P V Joshi
J Kaufman
D W Loydall
Dr I K Ridley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

S J Ball	Assistant Solicitor
Miss E Byrne	Democratic Services Officer
Ms R Deo	Audit Manager
D M Gill	Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer
P Harvey	External Auditor
G Patterson	External Auditor
M Watkins	Head of Internal Audit

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms R Deo	CW Audit Services
P Harvey	Grant Thornton LLP
G Patterson	Grant Thornton UK LLP
M Watkins	CW Audit Services

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

18. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

None.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 November 2020 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

21. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The Action List arising from the previous meeting held on 26 November 2020 be noted.

22. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

23. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT ISA 260 GOVERNANCE REPORT (2019/20) | PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out in pages 8 - 128 in the public agenda reports pack) which asked Members to review and approve the Statement of Accounts 2019/20.

It was confirmed by Grant Thornton that they were close to completing their report, and that they should have the final report completed before the end of May. If the report has not been completed by then, Grant Thornton will come back to the Council with their final report at a later date.

The Committee requested any updates made to the report to be put in a different colour for ease of reading. On page 15, it was further requested that the cabinet system point be turned into positive.

The Committee queried the sample size used by Grant Thornton. The Committee was advised that a response at a later date regarding how the filing system can be streamlined was to be provided.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor D W Loydall and

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 be reviewed and approved as previously recommended and approved at November Audit Committee; and**
- (ii) In order to comply with the Council's statutory obligations, it be confirmed that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 can be published and the Section 151 Officer be authorised, following consultation with the Chair of the Audit Committee, to make any changes to the accounts that may be agreed with Grant Thornton LLP, the Council's External Auditors.**

24. STRATEGIC INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN (2021/22 TO 2022/23)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out in pages 129 -

143 in the agenda reports pack) which asked Members to note the update on the proposed Internal audit Plan 2021/22 to 2023/24

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) **The contents of the Strategic Internal Plan - 2021/22 to 2023/24 be noted; and**
- (ii) **Members approve the Internal Audit Plan 2021/22 to 2023/24 put forward (as set out at Appendix 1).**

25. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT (Q3 2020/21)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out in pages 144 - 155 in the agenda reports pack) which asked Members to note the report which was produced in order to update the Committee on progress made in delivering the 2020/21 Audit Plan and to provide an update in relation to management's implementation of internal audit recommendations.

The Committee requested a before, during and after report regarding the IT figures, as well as an Officer discussion to be had regarding secure environment and back up regime. These matters were requested to be considered at the next meeting of the IT and Communications Working Group

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The contents of the report and the appendix be noted.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.40 PM



Chair

Wednesday, 28 July 2021

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